

4. NOTE ON THE SIGHTING OF A CARACAL (*FELIS CARACAL*)
AT THE SARISKA NATIONAL PARK

On 24th April between 6.15 and 6.30 a.m. I was travelling in a jeep between the Sariska National Park Gate and Kalighati within the park. The forest guard Shri Pratap Singh who was with me drew my attention to the caracal which was behind a few bushes and walking along the road and identified it as such. In a moment it passed a clearing before turning off away from the road when I could unmistakably see the animal's black ears with tufts on them.

This region has always had caracals, in fact there is a picture post card from Jaipur of about the turn of the century vintage which shows a cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) and a

caracal in captivity. The neighbouring erstwhile Jaipur state had a "cheetah khana" and the Maharajas hunted with both these animals. Incidentally, to the best of my knowledge the animal is identified in northern India by its Persian name only "Shia gosh", i.e. black ears.

I have been visiting this forest since 1972, but this is the first time I have come across a caracal there. However, according to a paper presented to the Cat Specialist Group at Kanha, April, 1984 entitled "Vanishing Cats of Rajasthan" by Vishnu Sharma and Kailash Sankhala, there are two reports of caracals in 1956, two in 1962, one in 1979 and one in 1982 in the Sariska region.

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5. OCCURRENCE OF LARGE INDIAN CIVET (*VIVERRA ZIBETHA*) IN ORISSA

(With a photograph)

An adult Large Indian Civet (*Viverra zibetha*) was caught by villagers near screw-pine (*Pandanus tectorius*) bushes of the village Banguari (Fulnakhara area in Cuttack District, Orissa) on January 12, 1986 and received at Nandankanan Biological Park in an injured condition (Photo. 1). The animal recovered after treatment. It is housed in an enclosure having a floor space of approximately seven square metres; height 2.80 metres and with two cave-like retiring dens. It is fed with minced meat,

milk, boiled rice and fruits like banana and apple. The animal is sluggish during day and becomes active late in the evening when all the visitors had left. This appears to be the first record of occurrence of this Civet in Orissa.

Prater (1971) gives the distribution of Large Indian Civet as Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Upper Bengal and Assam, extending eastwards into Burma, Southern China, Siam and the Malay Peninsula. The distribution of this



Photo 1. Large Indian Civet (*Viverra zibetha*) in Orissa.

species is given as Southern China, Nepal, Assam and eastward to the Malay Peninsula (Walker *et al.* 1964). The species has not been reported from Orissa (Das and Agrawal 1973, Behura and Guru 1969).

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